

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) A method for retrieving a value secured in a key management system comprising:

- receiving a request for the value secured in the key management system;
- retrieving a serialized file from a key management system storage;
- de-serializing the serialized file producing a de-serialized file;
- decoding an encoded key list in the de-serialized file to produce a decoded key list;
- searching for a key corresponding to the value in the decoded key list;
- inputting a key encryption key into the key management system;
- hashing the key encryption key to produce a key encryption key hash;
- comparing the key encryption key hash to a hashed key encryption key in the de-serialized file;
- decrypting a secret token in the de-serialized file using the key encryption key if the key encryption key hash is equal to the hashed key encryption key in the de-serialized file to produce at least one tuple;
- storing the at least one tuple in a data structure within the key management system; and
- retrieving the tuple corresponding to the value, if the key corresponding to the value is in the decoded key list.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

- searching a local file system, if the key corresponding to the value is not in the decoded key list.

32. (Original) A method for changing an existing key encryption key, comprising:

- entering the existing key encryption key;
- entering a new key encryption key;
- de-serializing a serialized file producing a de-serialized file;
- hashing the existing key encryption key producing a hashed key encryption key;

comparing the hashed key encryption key to a key encryption key hash in the de-serialized file;  
decrypting a secret token using the existing key encryption key if the hashed key encryption key equals the key encryption key hash producing a tuple;  
encrypting the tuple using the new key encryption key producing a new secret token;  
hashing the new key encryption key producing a new hashed key encryption key; and  
serializing the new hashed key encryption key and the new secret token to produce a new serialized file.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for retrieving a value secured in a key management system comprising:

means for receiving a request for the value secured in the key management system;  
means for retrieving a serialized file from a key management system storage;  
means for de-serializing the serialized file producing a de-serialized file;  
means for decoding an encoded key list in the de-serialized file to produce a decoded key list;  
means for searching for a key corresponding to the value in the decoded key list;  
means for inputting a key encryption key into the key management system;  
means for hashing the key encryption key to produce a key encryption key hash;  
means for comparing the key encryption key hash to a hashed key encryption key in the de-serialized file;  
means for decrypting a secret token in the de-serialized file using the key encryption key if the key encryption key hash is equal to the hashed key encryption key in the de-serialized file to produce at least one tuple;  
means for storing the at least one tuple in a data structure within the key management system; and  
means for retrieving the tuple corresponding to the value, if the key corresponding to the value is in the decoded key list.

35. (Original) An apparatus for changing an existing key encryption key, comprising:

- means for entering the existing key encryption key;
- means for entering a new key encryption key;
- means for de-serializing a serialized file producing a de-serialized file;
- means for hashing the existing key encryption key producing a hashed key encryption key;
- means for comparing the hashed key encryption key to a key encryption key hash in the de-serialized file;
- means for decrypting a secret token using the existing key encryption key if the hashed key encryption key equals the key encryption key hash producing a tuple;
- means for encrypting the tuple using the new key encryption key producing a new secret token;
- means for hashing the new key encryption key producing a new hashed key encryption key; and
- means for serializing the new hashed key encryption key and the new secret token to produce a new serialized file.

36-38. (Cancelled)